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Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A device for delivery of a therapeutic agent to an animal comprising:

- (a) a carrier having a negatively charged surface; and
- (b) an effective antimicrobial dose of one or more cationic antimicrobial substances in a saliva soluble form positioned close to or at the surface of the carrier, and an alkali metal salt positioned close to or at the surface of the carrier and in an amount effective to promote solubility of the cationic antimicrobial substance in the saliva.

2. (Cancelled)

C1
cont'd.

3. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

B1
cont'd.

4. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the one or more cationic antimicrobial substances are selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

5. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the cationic antimicrobial substance is chlorhexidine digluconate and the alkali metal salt is sodium gluconate.

6. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is a proteinaceous carrier.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) A method for providing dental health in an animal comprising:

(a) obtaining an animal oral care composition including one or more cationic antimicrobial substances in an antimicrobial effective amount and an alkali metal salt in an amount effective to promote solubility of the cationic antimicrobial substance in saliva; and

(b) administering the composition to the animal on a proteinaceous carrier that will be voluntarily chewed by the animal.

9. (Cancelled)

C'cont'd.
10. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

11. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the one or more cationic antimicrobial substances are selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

12. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the cationic antimicrobial substance is chlorhexidine digluconate and the alkali metal salt is sodium gluconate.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Added) A device for delivery of a therapeutic agent to an animal comprising:

(a) a rawhide chew having a negatively charged surface; and

(b) an effective antimicrobial dose of one or more cationic antimicrobial substances in a saliva soluble form positioned close to or at the surface of the rawhide chew, and an alkali metal salt positioned close to or at the surface of the rawhide chew and in an amount effective to promote solubility of the cationic antimicrobial substance in the saliva.

15. (Previously Added) The device according to claim 14, wherein the alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

16. (Previously Added) The device according to claim 14, wherein the one or more cationic antimicrobial substances are selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

17. (Previously Added) The device according to claim 14, wherein the cationic antimicrobial substance is chlorhexidine digluconate and the alkali metal salt is sodium gluconate.

18. (Previously Added) A method for providing dental health in an animal comprising:

- (a) obtaining an animal oral care composition including one or more cationic antimicrobial substances in an antimicrobial effective amount and an alkali metal salt in an amount effective to promote solubility of the cationic antimicrobial substance in saliva; and
- (b) administering the composition to the animal on a rawhide chew that will be voluntarily chewed by the animal.

19. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 18, wherein the alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

20. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 18, wherein the one or more cationic antimicrobial substances are selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

21. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 20, wherein the cationic antimicrobial substance is chlorhexidine digluconate and the alkali metal salt is sodium gluconate.